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VLIV V OBLASTI KAŽDODENNÍHO ŽIVOTA**

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**HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE  
AND ITS INFLUENCE IN THE AREA OF  
EVERYDAY LIFE**

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## ABSTRACT

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The object of this undergraduate thesis is to show the British colonization in the eighteen century and the later American fight for independence. It shows the fight for the American rights, fight against the injustice caused by Britain and fight for the American freedom. During this time, the American inhabitants went through the complete change, whether it was the change of the political system or the change of personal feelings of people and this transformation led to the new state and to the new community of people.

The whole thesis could be divided into two larger parts. The first part shows the life in the American colonies and their government and the reasons which led to the American Revolution and to *The Declaration of Independence*. The second part of this thesis shows how the government was changed and along with it how changed the life of the American inhabitants. The second part shows how the important documents such as *The Declaration of Independence* and *The Constitution of the United States* changed the future of millions of people practically over a night.

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## INTRODUCTION

My work deals with history of American independence and how people come to it. From the first colonies and first settlers, through different wars, battles and acts we will get to *The Declaration of Independence* and to the independence itself.

The aim of the thesis is to describe how people lived in the British colonies on the American continent, because right there started the American fight for independence. At first it is necessary to look into the already mentioned lives of colonial people, their government and their feelings to later better understand their lust for freedom.

Life in the American colonies went on some places under severe conditions, whether connected with bad crops or raids of the Indians who protected their lands and even Britain itself complicated the life of the colonists and actually even to herself, primarily in the time of battles or in the time of demanding the taxes. Of course especially in the meaning of taxes colonists had to protect themselves seeing that they had to have the same rights as the British, just for example in respect of levies where people in the colonies had to pay the taxes on imported goods. Nowadays it seems to be logical, but in the 18<sup>th</sup> century it meant, that colonist had to pay taxes for goods imported from their own land. That is why colonists fought for their rights and against the injuries which Britain caused them.

Later, after *The Declaration of Independence*, people fought for their rights again, but now in the meaning of personal independence, for example women fought for the right to own property, the right to vote etc. The black minority or slaves had to firstly fight for their own freedom and later also for their right to vote. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century everyone on the American continent searched their own freedom and independence, they searched for their American dream.

Most of the people really believed that their country could win over the British and would gain their political freedom and by this reason people could gain their own liberty, the freedom which they could really feel. Thinking of most of the people was influenced by opinions of movement of enlightenment and they believed that honesty is the best policy and only by their very hard work they can gain their aim, and that was independence. This feeling of independence evoked a taste to live in the people.

Nevertheless, the American continent always appeared to be as the land of new opportunities with a guarantee of freedom for everyone, in disregard of race, religion or a position in society.



## COLONIES AND COLONISTS

When Spain in the fifteenth century sent Christopher Columbus search for a new trade route to India nobody knew what he exactly discovered. Columbus himself was disappointed that he did not find anyone with whom he could do business. Therefore the New World was quite in peace for several decades of years, but later Britain as the main conqueror of the American world decided made the best of this lands and it was Britain's chance how to gain another possession and what more, how to be more powerful. The British Empire firstly sent people to the colonies in the names of trading corporations and colonies themselves had to serve as branches for these companies. Other people came to America for freedom, mostly religious. People came to start a new life, a different life. In their old life they were just beggars, criminals or people who were uncomfortable for community and the New World was a chance for them, a chance to be a new person, a chance to achieve something.

Other reason why colonial empires, especially of powerful European countries, were founded was to gain control of far and non-European nations and in principle of mercantilism under which European countries operated, colonies were another way how to increase an economic wealth and the wealth of empires in general. Colonial powers considered themselves as messengers, who had to bring civilization to distant countries; we are talking about a burden of a white man. But not only civilization came to the new lands. Different diseases and different religions came along with it and it had disastrous influence on native people, on the Indians. Colonies provided a shelter to different denominations and individual churches, which deviated from social norms, and the colonies were generally known as a territory, where differently thinking people could live, let's say in conformity. Later of course, human greed and lust for property appeared and colonies stopped to be an ideal place to live.

English colonization on the one hand, was unsuccessful and on the other hand, successful. Colonization in the meaning of unsuccessful attempt signified that the first settlers on the new continent, especially in the inland colonies, had to start from scratch. They could build something new just by very hard work and same opinion had even a captain and founder of the first colony, Jamestown, John Smith, who said: "He that will not work shall not eat" (Tindall and Shi 52). Unfortunately some of the first settlers in efforts to survive paid the highest price, they paid by death. Beside it these colonies were more exposure to the native American inhabitants who tried to protect their lands. Whereas

colonies on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean quite prospered. Probably thanks to the harbors in which ships were made even during The Revolutionary War or thanks to fishing, slaves or people, who were hired for working on plantations.

Life in the colonies went according to people who lived in and it much depended on tenacity of every individual, how he or she could deal with a new environment and with a loss of previous life, with a loss of family, friends and familiar places.

## **GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMY IN EARLY COLONIES**

In America every colony reined to itself through governors elected by the Crown, mainly because Britain wanted to reserve its own government in colonies on the one hand, but on the other hand, Britain was not sending almost any commands and intimations until the time of law making. There were just some authorities given to the specific governors and it was just their business what happened in their colony and how they controlled it. Governors had power to name and canceled their clerks, gave orders to militia and to naval power, they had power to amnesty and at the same time they kept a political and economic interests of the Crown, especially in the area of trade and assessments. Unfortunately there was a problem. Although colonies had government, the government did not reign by sufficient power and people, when they started live in the New World, they were accustomed to govern themselves from the beginning. People had to rely just on themselves, no government could help, for example cultivate fields, they had to do it by their own hands, and this independence has grown into a habit through the years. According to an interviewed one war veteran, Levi Preston, who was asked sixty-seven years after the Battles at Lexington and Concord, we can see that people in the New World wanted to stay in this position: “young man, what we meant in going for those redcoats was this: we always had governed ourselves, and we always meant to” (Tindall and Shi 206).

Economy in the colonies developed to such extent how it suited to the ruling power, not in the way how it could be helpful to the local needs. Britain considered the colonies just like another possessions and sources, and believed that colonies existed just to bring the profit to the mother country which should protect them in return. And after that, when colonists rose in revolt, the King and the parliament realized, that what they recovered by hard work and by their own hands they started to lose. Britain just took an oversized piece which she could not swallow.

## **BEFORE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION – CAUSES OF THE WAR**

### **The Seven Years' War - The French and Indian War**

Britain and the colonies lived in harmony almost one hundred years until the British Empire was in no war. The first of them was King William's War (1689 – 1697), second war was Queen Anne's War (1702 – 1713) and the last conflict which ruined Great Britain was King George's War or in other words The War of the Austrian Succession or The Silesian Wars and The Seven Years' War. After those wars, Britain found herself with almost no financial resources and had an idea that colonies could participate in paying this national debt.

The Seven Years' War was primarily a conflict between Great Britain and France. Fighting took place from years 1756 to 1763 on several fronts, in Europe, North America and Asia. Whereas on the North American continent it was called The French and Indian War. The conflict was ended by The Treaty of Paris in 1763 and according to Edward and Renehan: "With that treaty – signed by Great Britain, France, and Spain – France lost to Great Britain all of its North American possessions (except Louisiana, which it had ceded to Spain) (4).

The French and Indian War was fought on several places on the American continent. A main collision was presented in ownership of valley situated on a junction of Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, in upper Ohio River. In principle the conflict decided, who will dominate to the force of North America. Whether it was the British Crown or the French Empire we will get through later.

In the year of 1754 King George III gave to the colonists, several acres of land behind the Appalachian Mountains: "It was all a rich prize, ... and the colonist had no intention of relinquishing it" (Cunliffe 39). On this account The Ohio Company was formed by Virginians and its object of undertaking was exploring the country and gain money by building trading posts. In the function of company's manager stood Lawrence Washington, brother of George Washington. In the year 1754 was already known that the territory was settled down by the French, who had significant relationship with the native inhabitants. And these two brothers often talked about it. Both understand that: "[they] shall have trouble with the French" and George Washington said: "it looks as if [they] should have to drive them out by force" (Baldwin 32). And both were right. Good brother Lawrence tried to ensure Washington's future and helped him to get a position in a still British army as a general and in the spring Washington marched to the head of Ohio River,

but: “it was a small army to advance against the thousands of French and Indians who now held the region” (Baldwin 38). In a battle inexperienced Washington had to surrender, nevertheless he wrote to his brother: “We obtained a most signal victory ... I heard the bullets whistle, and, believe me, there is something charming in the sound” (Cunliffe 47). As future American, Washington was proud of himself and his deeds were not unnoticed. Thanks to his courage marched against such advantage; General Braddock offered him a position among his men. And the war with the French had now already begun.

People of course did not want to go to war, but there was no other way. The French felt threatened with an arrival of the British and they: “ ... viewed this as a British attempt to claim the entire area [of this valley] ... ” (Marston 11). Therefore the French began to fortify themselves with Fort Beausejour. This fort should be a beginning of a future system of strategically sited forts and by this system, the French wanted to enclose the British colonies. But Governor Robert Dinwiddie was given a command to make a move against the French and in 1754 he did the same, he also built a fort. Under these circumstances George Washington, who was later in the year 1789 elected the first president of the United States of America, had a task, to protect Dinwiddie’s fort and to negotiate with the French and discourage them from building forts.

A very first bloodshed of this collision took place before Washington managed to come to the Dinwiddie’s fort. The French already attacked the fort and rename it to Fort Duquesne. How Washington marched forwards against their enemy he received a message that the French are moving towards them. He stopped for a while and built a new fort, Fort Necessity. Later Washington ambushed the French soldiers although they wanted negotiate and some of them were taken prisoner. The revengeful French wanted to release their captive soldiers and in the Fort Necessity beat Washington back. This fight took nine hours and allies of the French, the Indians: “ ... attack[ed] the British troops [by] scalping and killing several men. The French officers and men did little to stop them” (Marston 13). Here we can exactly see how spiteful the French were against the British. After this battle the Crown was banished of this junction of rivers and the French burnt Fort Necessity.

The British Empire did not surrender so easily. In March 1755 General Braddock and Gage with their regiments arrived to America. They reached the remains of Fort Necessity in June 25 and crossed the Monongahela River, but the French knew about them: “ ... Captain de Beaujeu assembled an attack force ... and led them out of Fort Duquesne ... both armies met and skirmished” (Marston 29). The British under firing of the French and the Indians had to fall back to the remains of Fort Necessity. Later the British came again

and approximately sixty-four kilometers remote from Fort Duquesne built up Fort Ligonier. In the beginning of October the French attacked Fort Ligonier and after two hours long battle they had to fall back. In November 18 when the British felt the French contemporary weakness and their chance for success, the British beat the French back. But the French soldiers cowardly burnt the fort and ran away rather than fight. After all, the Crown finally reached this junction of rivers and from the remains of Fort Duquesne the British built a new fort, Fort Pitt, today's city of Pittsburgh where up to the present day can be seen the walls of the fort as the place to remember.

Nevertheless, after some lost battles:

... the British won important victories at Louisbourg [Nova Scotia], Fort Frontenac [Ontario], Fort Carillon (later Ticonderoga) [Lake Champlain], and Crown Point [Lake Champlain], and at Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh) and Fort Niagara [, but] the climax came with the British victory on the Plains of Abraham [Quebec] ... .  
("French and Indian War")

The battle of Plains of Abraham is in other words decisive Battle of Quebec which took place in 13<sup>th</sup> September 1759. The British troops laid the siege to the city all two months on a land and on water, until a final and fatal clash for the French had come. The battle took place outside the walls of the Quebec City and the town was forced to capitulate. After the Crown defeated the French, it gained territory of New France at that time, today's territory of Canada. By this date the French power in America ended and since the year 1763 Britain ruled America and ruled the world: "Great Britain's victory meant that it was now the most powerful empire in the world. The British Empire had colonies on almost every continent" (Gunderson 12), but not for long. Since this victory, colonists began to think about themselves more as the Americans than the English or the British.

### **Relicts of the War – Acts**

After the end of The Seven Years' War, the British Crown was financially drained and she was in a serious economic trouble. She: "had only two possibilities how to solve the financial crisis: declare national bankruptcy or radically raise taxes" (Raková 44), and in addition British King George III signed so-called Royal Proclamation in 1763, which was an imaginary line over the Appalachian Mountains. Colonists could not cross it and governors could not measure the land behind this line. The King together with Grenville,

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, considered appropriate to participate with the colonies in a defense of this boundary and losses connected with The Seven Years' War: "To help pay some of these debts, King George III and the British parliament imposed new taxes on the colonists" (Gunderson 12) and:

The seaboard colonies were now required to pay their share of the costs of empire, through taxes that would also define more sharply the mercantilist pattern, according to which the colonies supplied raw materials to Britain and provided a market for Britain's manufactures. (Cunliffe 67)

However British merchants themselves were opposed to the assessments, by reason of possible decreasing their trades with colonies. John Hancock, a tradesman, one of the fighters for a revolutionary movement and one of the supporters of later established anti-British group The Sons of Liberty: "... complained about the acts' effect on his business ..." (Gaines and Schlesinger 21). Other supporter and leader among the Virginians who stood the reason: "... not to import taxable goods from Britain" (Cunliffe 70) was George Washington. He: "addressed to the throne and remonstrances to Parliament [that they] have already proved the inefficacy of ... how far [British] attention to [colonial] rights and privileges is to be awakened or alarmed by starving their [British] trade and manufactures, remains to be tried" (Cunliffe 70 and 71). And even colonies themselves waged business war between each other. They did not import competitive goods for the development of their own trade.

The Prime Minister Grenville in the year of 1764 pushed through a first law, The Revenue Act, or in other words The Sugar act, and The Currency Act, which had to bring money into the royal chest from colonies. The Sugar Act cut rate of the duty on molasses to a half and next this act imposed duty for example on indigo, coffee and other goods, which colonists imported from countries outside the Empire. Britain passed this law hoping, that the colonists would stop smuggling goods and in the royal treasury would increase. But the opposite was true. The earnings from this custom were insufficient and failed to cover even an administrative expenditure connected with it, let alone to cover defense spending. The Currency Act proclaimed that the Americans could not print their own money because it would devalue the British currency. Colonists and even Britain itself got into a vicious circle by this act. Britain wanted money, but colonies had nothing to pay with.

In 1765 the British parliament approved another two acts, The Quartering Act and The Stamp Act. The Quartering Act had, in the specific areas of the American continent, ensured food and an accommodation for British soldiers, in taverns, empty houses and in homes of the colonists, of course at house's own expense. The Stamp Act was the first direct tax and it occurred in a form of stamps glued on every printed material (including newspapers), documents and even on the playing cards and dice. It was affirmed in 1756 by the British parliament also and it gave rise to a great indignation between American inhabitants, because they had to pay fees in the time where was acute absence of currency. And colonists were asking themselves, why people in the colonies, exiles of the European World with a hard living in a different place should pay extra money in the means of taxes and why they should pay for the imported goods from their own country: "What irked the American colonies ... was the assumption that they were not parts of Britain but possessions of Britain" (Cunliffe 67). And what was more; the colonies already stood on their own legs and were already almost independent: "In actuality they were mature, or nearly so, in modes of life and in habits of self-government" (Cunliffe 67 - 68) and of course they could not agree with this act and not only with this one, but with all: "They took their stand as liberty-loving Britons; their eloquence arose naturally out of their heritage and out of their own circumstances" (Cunliffe 70). While people reacted with violence, John Adams, the second president and the first Vice president of the United States, in those days fighter for the American rights, reacted with intellect: "He gave many speeches. He also wrote many newspaper articles about how a new [British] government could be run" (Welsbacher 18). And all those revolts were not about the money, it was about principle. Britain did not help to the first settlers; it just gave them a land, but no money to start. And on the contrary, in the time of The Seven Years' War the colonies helped Britain. They provided her with a support in a form of soldiers and reserves. On the other hand, the principle was that colonists understood it as an infringement of their rights. In John Adams's essay "A Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law", published in *Boston Gazette*, he: "...discussed what he believed was the basis for certain American freedoms and rights – British law ..." (Wagner 22) and:

according to liberal theories of government, the main task and authority of the parliament consisted in deciding on foreign money made by taxes and every inhabitant had the right to participate in this decision through his representatives which he chooses. If he did not vote, he did not have to pay the taxes – and vice

versa. (Raková 57)

And other problem was that Britain could by this tax get in a possession of colonial treasuries very easy: “These laws were not intended to benefit the American people, but were designed to enrich the merchants and politicians of England” (Baldwin 106). So the colonies protested, until they would not have someone in the parliament to stand for their rights and discussed all features of the assessments with them, they cannot be granted by taxes. On this account appeared a famous statement uttered by Patrick Henry at the meeting of Virginia parliament: No taxation without representation. Disturbances stimulated colonists to a fellow feeling. So the tree of American independence was planted and it was growing and getting stronger and stronger.

In 1765 twenty and seven delegates from nine colonies in New York, formed The Stamp Act Congress to arrange protests of the assessments, to repeal the law and to send a petition to King George III, *Declaration of the Rights and Grievances of the Colonies*. The colonies actually started a first collective action against the British Crown. Meanwhile people vented their anger and a discouragement of stamp sellers was in progress. Their houses, offices and flats were burnt by the first anti-British association, so-called The Sons of Liberty (The Loyal Nine how they called themselves): “The British Militia, the Sheriffs and Justices, kept a low profile. No one dared respond to such a violent force” (“The Sons of Liberty”). The Sons of Liberty also kept an eye on tradesmen in ports, to adhere boycott of import of the British goods. However: “the Boston importers removed from prohibition vital goods and boycott was restricted to one year. Transoceanic trade was too lucrative business, ...” (Raková 77). The colonists were slowly but surely taking control over the British. Everyone hoped that the Stamp Act would be abolished before it came into operation, but on the other hand, John Hancock proclaimed: “If not, ... we must submit” (Gaines and Schlesinger 22). The Stamp Act was finally for a general relief repealed in 1766 in a special Declaratory Act, where the British parliament kept the right to make laws even for colonists, who as the subordinate to the Crown had to accept it.

After these acts, colonists started slowly, but surely protest, because their own mother land had no right to impose the taxes on them and to pass the laws without discussing. Britain as the colonies’ mother land had to discuss all circumstances with the colonies and at least made the terms of compromise. The colonists started feel the indifference in the face of them from the British side and no child put up with.



## **Events in Boston – The Boston Massacre and The Boston Tea Party**

Relations between Britain and America after imposition of taxes and duties were increasingly failing and there were several conflicts. A main area of actions was primarily Boston. Another problem because of taxes was the smuggling of goods which in 1773 almost bankrupted The East India Trading Company.

The Boston Massacre was an incident which shocked both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. It took place in May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1770, on one Boston square before the customhouse, where the British soldiers were confronted by hostile and dissatisfied colonists. Excitement at the square summoned reinforcements for the soldiers and another mob of colonists armed with staves, which already attacked. The Soldiers in confusion, unfortunately successfully, started shoot to the group of people. After this incident governor, Thomas Hutchinson, did not want more trouble and commanded the soldiers to fall back on ships and guard along the coast. Only their presence increased the still present stress and the British red uniforms colonists perceived as a bull sees the red scarf.

After this incident a trial was taken and John Adams was a lawyer of the soldiers: “Adams accepted, believing that the case would be important and that it would prove a test of the right of all men to legal representation and fair trial” (Wagner 24) and that every person had a right for defense. John Adams tried to be honest on both sides whether the British or the American and he believed that guilt for this Massacre was on both sides: “He [also] argued that the mob must bear responsibility for what had happened. But Adams also noted that the mob had gathered because of the British government’s policy of sending in soldiers to keep the peace” (Wagner 24). On the other hand his cousin Samuel in his essay “A short Narrative of the Horrid Massacre in Boston” focused on compurgation just on the American side. He tried to: “refute charges that the Bostonians were the aggressors in the incident and to build up public pressure against the British military” (Linder).

Otherwise, The Boston Massacre was the first conflict in the American War of Independence in which the blood was shed, but *Cambridge Monolingual Dictionary* mentions the word massacre as: “an act of killing a lot of people”. In the book *America: A Narrative History* is written: “When the smoke cleared, five people lay on the ground dead or dying, and eight more were wounded” (187), which means that final figures of victims had risen to thirteen people. In this massacre have not been killed thousands or ten thousand people as in concentrate camps in the Second World War, but it deeply stroked into the human minds.

After death of the first people in the Boston Massacre, both sides realized that was really going about a serious thing. Britain became conscious that if she loses colonies on the North American Continent, it could be just beginning of the end. The British Empire could also lose other colonies, for example in India, Australia, etc. They could want, after the fashion of the Americans, to be independent also. A vision of possible loss was not positive for Great Britain and that is one of the reasons why she wanted to fight for its place in the American world.

The Boston Tea Party was an escalation of events of several years: “it was the first major protest by the colonists against the British government” (Gunderson 5). When in 1769 British ruler George III, resolved upon an abolition of all assessments and duties except the tea, colonists rose in revolt. In spite of Britain which still kept exacting tea taxes, settlers perseveringly resisted and refused paying. On the one hand, they began boycotting the British goods and on the other hand, the smuggling increased. For The East India Trading Company which had a lot of reserves of tea, but no consumption, came a difficult situation. Later, Britain tried to help the Company and: “in April 1773, Prime Minister North proposed in the House of Commons, to let The West India Company evade the shipping law and export a part of its reserves of tea from London’s stores to the American colonies, without paying obligatory duty in England” (Raková 100). At the end of the year 1773 ships loaded with tea were arriving into larger ports like New York or Philadelphia and with a full freight they had to go back, because colonists resigned took over the tea. In Boston people solved this by their own way; they did not let the ships sail into the port. Whereas the sons of the Governor of Boston, Thomas Hutchinson, were recipients of the tea, Hutchinson immediately undertook proper arrangements. He forbade the ships to leave until the tea will be unloaded and the fee paid. Unfortunately, this was a fatal error. The ships sat in the harbor more than three months until December. People dressed as the Mohawks Indians, encouraging by a crowd from the bank, boarded the ships and drowned the tea in a worth of twenty three thousand pounds. Since this accident, the port was closed by one of The Coercive Acts or The Intolerable Acts, passed in 1774. Any ship would not come in or go out, until the settlers pay the destroyed tea in all its worth. Colonists, of course, never paid a cent: “...they destroyed the tea to teach the British a lesson. The British had to learn that the colonists would no longer tolerate any type of taxation without representation” (Gunderson 28). But the King did not stay apart. He revenged and sent another group of soldiers in: “ ... order to keep the people in subjection” (Baldwin 49). On an account of those situations Washington had expressed himself: “I will

raise one thousand men, subsist them at my own expense, and march myself at their head for the relief of Boston” (Haley). Not only Washington, but the whole country was really aroused now.

### **The First Continental Congress**

Acquisitions about the assessments provoked the American radicals from the colonies to join together in a unified protest against the Crown. As a result of this act The Committees of Correspondence, came into being. The Committees of Correspondence were a direct authority of people policy, which should in a time of crisis, act effectively and act without parliamentary ceremonies and oppositions. The Committees of Correspondence later assembled the First Continental Congress from September 5, 1774 to October 26, in Philadelphia. The Continental congress was supposed to represent all the colonies, but in all fifty-six members of twelve from thirteen colonies met. Only Georgia, who did not send its delegates, did not participate and this impassivity had an influence on its future carrier.

Some of the participating colonies mainly wanted to find a way out with Britain, and other colonies came to defend their rights. For example John Hancock was one of the supporters of division with Britain, but on the other hand, he: “ ... did not see a serious problem in the relationship between the colonies and the British government” (Gaines and Shlesinger 21) and according to Raková Svatava: “it was representative gathering indeed, not unanimous” (111). The main topic of the Congress therefore was a thought of separation with Britain and agreement for The List of rights and grievances (October 14<sup>th</sup>). In this List colonies agreed on an interpretation of origin and content of the American rights, immediate grievances and nearest aims. This List was sent as an application with request of correction to King George III, but he does not respond to it.

In October 1774 The Congress wrote *The Declaration of Rights*. This document determined that the British government had the right to regulate the trade and impose the taxes on the colonies, but only taxes which were connected with a business in a framework of the British Empire. Further The Congress approved the Suffolk of Resolves which proclaimed The Coercive Acts as invalid.

People from the colonies, in the Suffolk of Resolves:

professed to defensive procedure and referred to loyalty to King George, on the other side it recommended boycott of import of goods ... disobedience against

judges which were named by the one Coercive Act, then it appealed to the inhabitants to collect guns and be trained systematically in a martial arts.

(Raková 113)

This resolves show that the colonies were aware of what could a complete separation from England do. They could lose a very important business partner from which prospered mostly colonies at the bank of the ocean. Otherwise colonies wanted to be independent, but to what extent? This struggle seems to me as a fight of parents with their children:

... the mother country regarded them as infants, to be indulged when they behaved obediently and spanked when they were naughty. It was not heart a question of tyranny, whatever patriotic orators said, but of minor grievances that took on the semblance of major one because the parent was muddled and obstinate and patronizing, while the offspring were of an age to want their own way. (Cunliffe 68)

But on the other hand, when the kids need an advice, they come for it to the parents, for example in later creation of *The Constitution of the United States*, colonies took a piece of advice, or more precisely colonies were inspired by the parliament of Britain.

## **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

A revolution, whether American or any other, according to online *Cambridge Monolingual Dictionary* means: “a change in the way a country is governed, usually to a different political system and often using violence or war” and the transatlantic monarchy was in the colonies replaced by republic and national self-confidence, and patriotism began grow in. The Revolution brought change of existing values and abolition of existing hierarchies. For the American continent it indicated a great shift to a liberal society based on individualism.

The American Revolution, also called The United States War of Independence or The American Revolutionary War became a first-rate affair in the American history. It meant a rebellion of the thirteen American colonies against the British control, but it was a civil war too, between local loyalists and local patriots. Colonies rose in 1775, when Britain was still dominating its settlements, however at the end of the war, in 1783 colonies

themselves controlled approximately 80 to 90 % of territory and Britain had remained just several coastal cities. The War ended with defeat of the British and acknowledgement of the independence to the colonies by the Crown.

When people started to live in the New World they were poor and hopeless, but the colonies provided a vision for them how to quickly acquire some property. Nevertheless if I were one of the most represented colonists, one of the refugees or beggars, I would feel very bad even if I had a land already. My mental health would be still in a bad condition, because I would live in the colony in a misery and I would have to make my living by a very hard work. Later in 1723 when Benjamin Franklin himself arrived to Philadelphia, on his way to looking for a job, had to felt as one of those first colonists, he himself experienced that: “He was hungry and tired. He had not a single friend. He did not know of any place where he could look for lodging” (Baldwin 87). But on the other hand people from a higher society who came to America, lived in peace. They paid people who worked on their lands and they had some hinterland, they had something to start with: “[This] social pyramid characterized by abysmal proprietary and cultural differences [and] deep deprivation of people from a populous and laminated bottom of this pyramid, bound in material needs and social ambitions ...” (Raková 131), was one of the main crisis in the colonies which led to the revolution. During one generation of incomers, relations with the British Empire were severed and reconciliation was not possible any more. People saw their future in a different light, in a new light. They already did not see themselves as exiles on a fringe of the European culture and they were not afraid to fight for it.

People in the colonies reacted in various ways on the Revolutionary War. Some of them were comfortable with their submitted position under Britain, others were not. Mostly depended on a place where they lived. And this was the same even in the time of battles. People were losing their crop and fields, which they could not use for some time because of running battles and some of the weaker characters: “... packed up their possessions and removed their families ...” for their safety to calmer places (“The Battle of Saratoga”). The others, more adaptable and hard natured, stayed in their homes and even fight in the army.

### **American Troops**

As the best source of American soldiers for the American Revolutionary War is probably seen normal and ordinary citizens or patriots, who entered to the army optionally and wanted fight for their independence from their own conviction. But most of the American soldiers belonged to the colonial poor people and people from the edge of the

society. People for fight were selected by a method, familiar and tested by the British. So called “liquorish recruits”, were unemployed people or people who solved their problems by entering to the army (Raková 209). They wanted to escape for example from apprenticeships; others wanted to escape from a criminal prosecution or arrest. There was no exception that soldiers were taken to the army even from prison, if they were able to fight for independence.

The army on the American continent founded two types of troops. The first one was a continental army and the second was a militia (by another name a home defense). The Continental army maintained very badly, because colonists rejected to abandon their fields for a longer time. Service in this type of army took from one year to three years. Otherwise, people in accession to army, were better trained and motivated by rewards like money or a land. The militias or home defense were less disciplined and trained, which was a great weak point of the American fight power and this led to a great loses and injuries. The militias did not serve more than three months. Their tactics in battle was assault from behind and generally they were unreliable army.

### **The War Begins – The Battle of Concord and The Battle of Bunker Hill**

Continuous conflicts between Britain and the colonies come into head with a first battle in the American Revolution in Massachusetts in 1775. In April by this year the British General Thomas Gage got a command to stop the open riots and if will be necessary to arrest colonial leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams, and to realize the Coercive Acts. So he sent his troops from Boston to end the rebellion and to destroy supplying armoury of guns hidden in Concord by the American troops, in the concrete by the militia. In spite of the action had to be secret: “ ... the American spy network quickly catches wind of the scheme” (Fredriksen 23). The American settlers in Concord were warned in time about Gage army’s potential access and they got a part of guns and powder away. However the British grenadiers in a desperate efforts to end the insurrection were: “ordered to search the premises for stored weapons” and to destroy what they could (Frederiksen 24). At the way back to Boston, the British army was followed by colonial snipers belonging to militia, who were: “ ... firing on them behind the roadside houses, barns, trees, and stone walls” (Wallenfeldt 63). In a sum three hundred men died and the Crown won just because of its supports.

The Battle of Bunker Hill or also The Battle of Breed’s Hill was a first great battle of the British troops and the American colonists in the history of America. A place where

the clash took place on June 1775 was Breed's Hill; it was closer to Boston than Bunker Hill, but Bunker Hill was chosen originally and the battle was named after that. To the American troops besieging Boston came help in a form of reinforcements from Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and even free slaves came fight for their future social standing in the New World, although they need more time than just a few warlike conflicts. The day before the battle an American rebels under command of General George Washington occupied the hill not far from Boston with a view of the city: "His men dig furiously, constructing a large redoubt on the hilltop before the British can react" (Fredriksen 33). Soldiers of the Crown, under command of General William Howe responded by reinforced troops and in June 17, 1775 fought back. The Americans had an order do not shoot, until the British will not be so close, to be sure, that can kill just by one shot. But the British in their red and completely useless uniforms for battle were a great target. Washington did not have to wait so long. Finally: "... attackers [were] staggered by heavy losses ... and flee back down the slopes. Stunned by such resistance, Howe rallie[d] the survivors and [led] them back up the hill a second time" (Fredriksen 33). At the end, the army of the Crown quarried Breed's Hill three times and they finally acquired it thanks to rebels who had insufficiency of ammunition: "... and were forced to throw stones [and] a bayonet charge ousted them" (Tindall and Shi 199). General Howe gained his position at the expense of great losses of lives and it was a dear-bought victory.

### **The Second Continental Congress**

The Second Continental Congress, headed by John Hancock, gathered in the middle of rumors about the spreading of war, in May 1775 in Philadelphia. The burden of the Congress was to take over a task of a revolutionary government and to take the power of all colonies and colonists into their hands. As the government, the Congress felt a necessity to fight for the rights of the Americans and it had an authority to name a general of the Continental Army. George Washington was one of the candidates: "several were ambitious for the post, but opinion varied. The name of George Washington was ... supported by John Adams, who spoke in laudatory term of the skills and experience of the Virginia colonel" (Haley). And according to Washington's older friend: "... [he was] a boy who gives promise of great things" (Baldwin 24). So thanks to his experience in battles and tenacious character and perspective future, he became a General of the Continental army: "And for all countries involved in revolutionary war he provided a practical inspiration of a citizen soldier commanding a citizen army" (Cunliffe 18 - 19). Washington took this engagement

for free. He did not draw any salary: “He undertook it, not for profit nor for honor, but because of a feeling of duty to his fellow-men” (Baldwin 54). After his appointment General Washington took formal commandment of the army: “His so-called army was actually an amalgam of loosely organized militias and short-term Continentals ...” (Fredriksen 687). Nevertheless, on the other hand: “... every man had the love of country in his heart (Baldwin 54).

For the rights of the Americans, the Congress fought in the name of colonists in two documents. First document was released as another appeal to the King George III, known as the Olive Branch Petition, where the Congress tried another diplomatic negotiation and pleaded the King to break away from ill feeling to colonies: “It told King George III that the colonies were loyal to him” (Gunderson 39). The second one, *The Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms* (written by Thomas Jefferson), blamed the British for an unprovoked attack on Lexington and defended the Americans in the fight against the British troops. The King refused even to look to those documents and declared colonist as open and obvious enemies of the British Crown. It was a last straw for the colonists. Then, on June 7, 1776 Richard Henry Lee rose and proclaimed in the Congress: “that the colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states ... and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain in, and ought to be, totally dissolved” (Wagner 31 - 32). There was nothing else to do but agree.

### **A Committee of Five – Jefferson’s Declaration**

“The Revolutionary War is enshrined in American memory as the beginning of a new nation born in freedom” (“The Battle of Saratoga”) and make it happened it was necessary, in July 1776 at the Second Continental Congress, to set together a committee, which had to write *The Declaration of Independence* for all thirteen colonies. The commission consisted of some delegates from colonies like Benjamin Franklin for Pennsylvania, John Adams for Massachusetts, Roger Sherman for Connecticut, Robert Livingstone for New York and Thomas Jefferson for Virginia. They wanted explain to the Crown the dissatisfaction of colonists and logically vindicate why colonies should be independent. Before, the Americans tried to forestall separation with the British Empire, but the King’s aversion to communicate with colonists and his attitude to the colonies themselves was a quite clear signal to them. In the colonies’ eyes he did not care about them anymore, so why they should stay under someone’s protective wings who will just benefits from them when it will be necessary. On the other hand colonies themselves



realized that a complete separation with Britain would be a sure loss even for them and Benjamin Franklin once said to his friend: “America and her mother land can never be truly parted. Financially and politically, yes – but not spiritually. The child leaves the home, the young bird leaves the nest, and the next phase begins” (Edward - Renehan 43 and 44). Nevertheless the colonies would have to stand on their own legs again, and from their experience they know already that it was not easy, but they were in a better position now. They have a solid ground under their feet at least.

In spite of the speech of Richard Henry Lee before the Congress: “[John Adams] was the first person to argue that England’s colonies should break away and be their own country” (Welsbacher 4) and that was why the writing of the first version of *The Declaration* was entrusted to him along with Thomas Jefferson. Finally Adams agreed that the first draft of *The Declaration*, according to knowledge of law and reputation of a good and eloquent writer, would draw up Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson in a creation of the document of *The Declaration* was largely inspired by John Locke and Thomas Paine and his *Common Sense*, published in January 1776. Paine advertised to sever bonds and be independent on Britain and to create the own American government. Some of the influential persons supported this pamphlet, for example George Washington. On the other hand, John Adams saw Paine’s arguments too simple and he wrote his own pamphlet *Thoughts on Government* where he described: “ ... the new system of government ... with two branches designed to provide checks and balances to each other” (Wagner 30). John Adams certainly outrun the time and his thoughts were used in the creation of later constitution.

*The Declaration* accepted two main principles of democracy:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. - That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. (Jefferson)

This meant that all people had the right of life and freedom and they are equal before the law and all the power comes from people. *The Declaration* also includes the list of injustices, which colonies suffered under the rule of the King George III. “The history of present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations ...”

(Jefferson) and Jefferson assigned this list with a sentence: “To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world” (Jefferson).

July 2, 1776 the Congress after John Adams defence, accepted *The Declaration of Independence* and on the 4<sup>th</sup> July in Pennsylvania State House (today’s Independence Hall), *The Declaration* was ratified. Delegates from colonies signed in an order given to placing of states, which they represented and the names of signed were kept in secret for a case still possible victory of the British. In the evening of July 4 it was still printed a few copies of *The Declaration*, which was send in the next day to some meeting and congresses. The Congress after that prescribed to rewrite *The Declaration* on a parchment to be an official document. Since this time colonies could called themselves free and independent states.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE: BOTH SIDES FIGHT**

After the States proclaimed their independence, probably everyone from a sight of Britain would choose a tactic of a bitter reconciliation, but not Britain. The British wanted to reconquest the whole continent and not just a suppression of revolt, but the British Empire was not alone. Of course the news about the Independence of the United States spread very quickly and countries which once owned a land in the territory of the New World, sense their chance. A chance to gain again a lost property on the North American continent, but what was more, it was a chance how to take revenge on Britain for her violent behavior, because the British Empire became very intolerable even for other states. Britain was almost everywhere and still wanted more and someone had to stop her. Will Britain try to take back her dominions at the American continent or came to realize that reconquest would led a war to her by the French and Spaniards, who would also try to gain back theirs lost territories?

Britain will fight! The English King disowned the birth of the independent American States and he sent to the continent other units of troops. A first conflict which happened in October in the year of 1777 was called The Battle of Saratoga. It was a collision of both continents at Long Island where the Americans were forced to retreat and let New York to the British, but Washington did not give up so easily and later he strike back with a little interest. On the Christmas he and his army trespassed an icebound Delaware River and surprised the suspicionless British, surrounded New York and General Burgoyne in the name of the British was forced to capitulate. This victory had a great

importance for the American citizens. They acquired new self-confidence and the victory over the British seemed still more realistic. However, Britain lost her last chance how to stop this revolutionary revolt.

Another British attempt, how violently re-consolidate the British power, was the Battle of Savannah in November 1778 in Georgia. But even the Americans did not get left behind. Washington together with the French reinforcements attacked Yorktown in Virginia, where the British in October 1781 had to capitulate: "... [This] British debacle began when General Cornwallis ignored instructions from his superior ... who wanted Cornwallis to use his battle-weary troops to defend British outposts in the Carolinas. Instead, Cornwallis brought his men to Virginia ..." (Edward and Renehan 14) and General Washington sent American's French war allies to hunt them. Meanwhile Cornwallis disobeyed an order again and prepared to defend Yorktown, but finally: "outnumbered, surrounded, and running out of supplies, Cornwallis surrendered, disgraced, on October 19, 1781" (Edward and Renehan 14).

By this last conflict the war ended. After eight years of fighting, financial losses and losses of lives, the British dominion over the colonies ended. Britain had no choice but in the year of 1783 to recognize America's independence. It is almost unbelievable that the Americans, who were in the beginning losing battle after battle, won the whole war and became truly independent and free citizens. Benjamin Franklin announced that: "his country ... was finally coming into its own as a recognized nation-state. This day ... was not only a pivotal one for America, but for the world – indeed, for all mankind" (Edward and Renehan 3).

### **American War Allies**

The American Revolution was no longer just a struggle between the British Empire and America for the independence of the colonies, but we can say that it had become a global effort how to suppress a British authority:

... the American Revolution eventually came to engage the military and naval forces of much of Europe. One war became four, each of them waged against Great Britain. England was fighting against, in turn, America (seeking independence), France ..., [and] Spain (seeking to recover possessions seized by the British in earlier wars), and the Netherlands ... . (Edward and Renehan 7)

When news of defeat of the British in The Battle of Saratoga came to Paris, the French inhabitants celebrated the win of the Americans as it was their own and they started negotiate with the Americans: “It was obvious that a number one ally of the Americans could be no one else than France, a recent [American] enemy, which the British army in the last war chased out from the North America” (Raková 148). After all, alliance with America was a way how to take revenge to the British for expulsion from the New World, which France itself against the still powerful British Empire hardly could. In a role of an American negotiator with France again appeared John Adams who: “ ... believed that it was critical to form an alliance with France ...” (Wagner 35).

Primarily France offered to colonies an ammunition support and sent to America a few ships with this load. After this, in February 1778, both sides made up several contracts. First of them was called The Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the second one, The Treaty of Alliance. The second treaty, The Treaty of Alliance contained, when one side enters the war with the British, the second one will follow until America will have the independence, next, that no side will make a peace without a negotiation with the other, plus France made another deal, that it will not try to gain back lost Canada nor any other, present-day's British possession. By The Treaty of Alliance the French became an ally of the USA.

The second one and again too obvious ally of the Americans, the Spanish, acted more reserved. The Spanish already had the treaty of defense with France, from the year 1761 and even if: “Spain and the United States were allied with France ... [they were] not [allied] with each other” (Tindall and Shi 234). The main reason of it was that: “the Spanish were ... concerned that seeds of the American Revolution might spread to Spain's own colonies in the Americas” (Edward and Renehan 18). But even in spite of this, in the year of 1779 in the beginning of April, the Spanish entered the war side by side with France until the Americans will have independence.

American diplomats tried to ensure other European allies, but negotiations were a great fiasco. The King of Prussia, Fridrich II, refused to fight against the British King, George III, his friend. For other diplomats, gates of countries and cities were closed. For example Austria did not allow enter the diplomat to its capital city. Only negotiation with the Netherlands had some success. In 1778 Holland signed with the Americans the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, which was, from the British side, a great reason to declare the war on the Netherlands.

The Americans with their new allies could now better protect themselves. It was just the matter of time when other lands will support the colonies in the fight against the expanding Britain and when decisive moment will come and Britain will fall.

### **The Treaty of Paris – The Versailles Peace**

For seven years, King George III and the government of Lord Frederick North had tried without success to put down the American rebellion. But every brief moment of success had inevitably been followed by defeat for the British, who found themselves beaten at Bunker Hill, Trenton, and Saratoga. (Edward and Renehan 13 and 14)

And after all those losses, a last chance to win, which the British still kept, was lost after Yorktown. In February in the year 1782 the House of Commons agreed on a finalization of the war and in the begging of the year 1783 was truce between Great Britain and The American States declared. Consequently in the same year on September 3, 1783 the peace was finally signed by the American representatives John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Jay and David Hartley as representatives of King George III and the British Parliament. Just by this one simple signature the British Empire recognized the independence of The United States of America: “But in the end, the U.S. representatives, together with their congress, were delighted with the settlement that, most importantly, recognized the independence of the United States and its place among the community of nations” (Edward and Renehan 3).

By this pact the Kingdom gave up all its dominions and to the new American States gave a land on the East of Mississippi River and in the South of Great Lakes, but it did not include Florida, which fall to Spain again. Only the natives, who fight side by side for freedom with the Americans and had the greatest right to land, were not included in any treaty.

### **A NEW GOVERNMENT**

Colonists and colonies was forced by circumstances to close up in unified protestations against Britain, they declared the independence just by themselves and started to function as individuals. So 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776 is the day which became an official date of the

birth of The United States of America. This day came into being a new system, the first independent states with European culture set outside Europe.

After *The Declaration of Independence*, new times had come on the American continent. The Americans after some won battles over the British felt more confident in the meaning of the independence. But to be independent meant and still means to secure a lot of things, on the instant someone has to control the state, army, but what is more important, someone has to take care of inhabitants, to live pleasantly in this new established state. Forasmuch as in America came into being this new state and also with it originated a new community of freedom people, also had to be created a new constitution, which would see after running the state.

Seeing that at the American continent come into being a new independent state with the new community of people, it was necessary also create a new leadership of the state. So when the Continental Congress in the May 15, 1776 received resolution which instructed colonial assemblies to create independent governments, the Congress selected a committee to write *The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union*. These thirteen articles were practically used already a year after *The Declaration of Independence*, from 1777, although they were completely signed by all thirteen colonies, in 1781. *The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union* worked as the first constitution of the United States and they were used by the Congress as a system of the government. The body of the document describes relationships and authority between states, the Confederation itself, its functions and its authority.

The states which joined these *Articles of Confederation* later became original founding states of the United States of America. First of the establishing colonies entered into the Union was Delaware in 1787. Pennsylvania and New Jersey became members after Delaware in the same year. A year later entered Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia and New York. Next, in 1789, who joined the Union was North Carolina, and the last one in 1790, Rhode Island.

Nevertheless *The Articles of Confederation* were just a temporal solution of the government. Thus, when in May 1787 delegates of twelve colonies except Rhode Island gathered at other assembly, they decided: “to replace unsatisfactory Articles of Confederation, ... document from the times of fight of the American colonies for independence on Great Britain“ (Česká Tisková Kancelář) with a new constitution rather than amend the old one. So in 1789 *The Articles of Confederation* were replaced by *The Constitution of the United States*.

The main inspiration for the new constitution of the United States was John Adams' Massachusetts constitution which was adopted in 1780. This document is considerable for: " ... its emphasis on a strong executive branch ... and its system of checks and balances marked by independent, popularly elected judges" (Wagner 37). *The Constitution of the United States* was adopted in Philadelphia at September 17, 1787 and "this Constitution, ... [should] be the supreme law of the land" (*The Constitution*). It was ratified in the name of independent people in each state, which can be seen at the very first sentence in Preamble: "We the people of the United States, ..." (*The Constitution*). *The Constitution of the United States* is still used nowadays, but it was over time amended twenty seven times.

The Founding Fathers [of the constitution of the United States] based their thoughts on the European enlightenment, especially from the theories of the English philosopher John Locke, according to him the state is created from independent and mutually equal individuals, who gave up some of their rights for the benefit of superior power of theirs, to be constantly assured common interest of society.  
(Česká Tisková Kancelář)

But considering that people yearn for power and they do not want to share it, there was necessary, following the example of Adams' constitution and Britain itself, to separate powers of the government, to control each other and not to influence each other. *The Constitution of the United States of America* determined three departments of the national government and specified their functions. Namely it divided a legislative power and described it in the Article I of *The Constitution*, an executive power described in the Article II: "The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America ..." (*The Constitution*), and finally judicial power of *The Constitution* was described in the Article III: "The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court" (*The Constitution*). The legislative power was represented by bicameral Congress: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives" (*The Constitution*). In spite of the fashion of the British parliament, the Americans did not create hereditary nobility so they did not create the House of Lords. The new form of the government, different from the British supremacy, was ensured in *The Constitution* by Article 4, section 4: "The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government ..." (*The Constitution*) in which the inhabitants of the

country should have an active role and the government was not headed by a king. The new constitution also mentioned the things which were suppressed in the time of British government and on the contrary *The Constitution* those things allowed such as in the amendment 1: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances” (*The Constitution*), there is allowed a congregation of people in an order to profess their religion or to have a public speech.

The new constitution of the United States of America was something new and in contrast with *The Articles of Confederation* which only limited business relations between individual states and between States and Britain, the new constitution was finally the right document which gave to the independent inhabitants their own rights. So the new constitution became the law number one. The Americans arranged their own conditions for living exactly as well as it should fit to the majority of people and especially in the way to disengage from Britain and her regulations and despotism.

## **THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE AMERICAN INHABITANTS**

Talking about independence is quite hard, because this term means something different to people. Independence is a relative term and a real independence cannot be expressed with words, because it is just a feeling that is inside each of us.

If anyone of us asks people what they call back after the term of independence, anyone will answer something different, but I think that in those days people will mostly answer to be independent in money. Not to think about it and buy anything what they want. My opinion is that money does not mean everything, but it is very important in today's life. Thereabouts you can live without money, but life is easier with it.

Independence in the eighteen century was understood as something necessary; it was understood as an entry to a next life's period. During the Revolutionary War many things had changed. The first emancipation of women started and the first free slaves appeared.

Women before the American Revolutionary War had almost no rights: “Women in the colonies had essentially confined to the domestic sphere...They could not vote or preach...few had access to formal education...in several colonies married women could not



legally own property – even their own clothes – and they had no legal rights over their children” (Tindall and Shi 243). But a vision of a still approaching independence influenced even them. Women in the American War of Independence started built their positions, because their men were fighting on the battle fields outside their homes, they began participate in a public life. Women had to run businesses and work on their farms and plantations and were employed as needlewomen to sew uniforms for soldiers. Their other supportive functions for the war were that they were collecting all kinds of metal to pour off ammunition, women took care of wounded soldiers and they cooked in a field kitchen. While women did all those stuffs, they had to raise children into brand new and conscious republicans. One of the active women was even the wife of John Adams, Abigail Adams, who wrote to her husband: “In the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would remember the Ladies [in the creation of *The Declaration of Independence*]” (Tindall and Shi 244). He should remember to give women some rights, but John Adams was strongly opposed and he even proved it in the very first sentence of *The Declaration* where he wrote: “... that all men are created equal, that they endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, ...” (Jefferson). According to this text, not everyone is equal and not everyone has the rights, but only men. So *The Declaration* was proclaimed for men, who according to the text and according to John Adams were equal, but women should still stay in a domestic sphere, be inferior to men and they should just keep the fire as in prehistoric times, while the men would be still improving themselves. Nevertheless, even if women had to wait a bit longer to be more equivalent to men, their patience was rewarded. For example for a right to vote women had to wait for the nineteenth amendment of *the United States Constitution*, which says: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex (*The Constitution*). This amendment was as far as in the year 1920 added to *The Constitution*. But although it does not look like that, *The Declaration of Independence* and the Revolution itself helped women, the opposite was true. Women became less independent on their husbands, because some husbands never came back from the war to their homes and wives at all, so women had to stand up their places and that led to desired emancipation.

Step by step women were gaining their independence, but their independence was mostly about spiritual feelings than about officially verified papers in a form of constitutions or laws. The obtaining of independence for the American women meant that they did not have to rely on theirs men and they could freely and themselves decided about

their future. Women emancipated of men to the benefit of future generations and they became valid members of a society.

A black minority or slaves was for a very long time considered not as subjects of the law, but as its objects: “In some societies slaves were considered movable property, in others immovable property, like real estate” and with almost no rights (“Slavery”). But during the American Revolutionary War even this minority of people experienced their emancipation. A very first impulse was boosted in a necessity of a human power for war. Even General Washington himself supported this idea and: “ ... reversed the policy of excluding blacks from the American forces ... and the Congress quickly approved the new policy” (Tindall and Shi 241). But blacks in armies were only on positions which did not need carrying of guns, for example they cooked in a kitchen. On the beginning of The Revolution even the British Empire promised slaves freedom if they will fight for her. But regarding that Great Britain lost this war, all slaves, had to wait for their freedom until the year 1863 when the slavery was abolished by the sixteenth president of the United States, by Abraham Lincoln. Nevertheless it was just a partial abolition in the time of the American Civil War (1861-1865) and only at a territory of the industrial North. However after the loss of the agricultural South in this war, the complete abolition of slavery was just a matter of time. In the year of 1865 the abolition was confirmed by the thirteenth amendment of *The Constitution of the United States*, which proclaimed: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction” (*The Constitution*). And this, finally and really meant freedom for millions of black people on the American Continent and since that day they could call themselves as the Afro-Americans. On the other hand slavery is known from the time of an Ancient Rome indeed and: “racism played a major part in European decisions to enslave Africans. European colonists in the Americas commonly argued that Africans and their descendants were naturally inferior to Europeans, so it was morally acceptable to enslave them” (DeFord 6), nevertheless before the complete abolition of slavery, some states did something at least, for a better life of slaves: “In 1780 Pennsylvania declared that all children born thereafter to slave mothers would become free at age twenty-eight ... In 1784 Rhode Island provided freedom to all children of slaves born thereafter, at age twenty-one for males, eighteen for females” (Tindall and Shi 242). But when Thomas Jefferson created *The Declaration of Independence* he did not care about slavery, mainly because *The Declaration* had to serve as an instrument for a separation from Britain. But

how I mentioned already, the sentence: “... all men are created equal, ...” (Jefferson) really meant that only men are equal and in the meaning of slavery, only white men. After *The Declaration of Independence* slaves had still the same rights as before and this document that stirred the world was for slaves just a worthless piece of paper. Later, in 1787, even *The Constitution* itself did not take much care of slavery, until the later amendments. In *The Constitution* slavery was not exactly titled, for example in the Article 1, section 9:

The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person. (*The Constitution*)

In this section the American Congress still allowed slavery, but did not allow an importation of another new black persons since the year 1808 and slaves began to be considered as people or more precisely to the Article 1, as persons and not as hagridden animals or just as a property at least. Also in amendments the slavery was not directly named. For example the fourteenth amendment from the year 1868, which was incorporated in the Article 1 of *The Constitution* as a section 2, mentioned slaves as the three fifths:

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. (*The Constitution*)

This amendment deals with dividing of places in the parliament and slaves are finally dispatched to the normal and free persons or more precisely to free and white men. Slaves in this amendment offered an advantage in a form of number of people which decided about the number of places assigned in the parliament. Nevertheless even after all those years of oppression and a hard work, the black minority of former slaves gain their right to vote, in the year 1870 by the fifteenth amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude“ (*The Constitution*). But it is

quite ironic that people of a different race who were considered as a lower social class had the right to vote even before the women from the society of white men. I think that for the society in the nineteenth century was better to have a black voter than a women voter, because women were still considered as women in childbed who do not understand politics, but I am sure that women certainly knew and still know what they want. So at the end of their long way, the Afro-Americans gained their equivalence, but in the minds of people they still were a lower part of society and for all people it took other time to get used to this equality.

Other inhabitants who should be surely mentioned were aborigines of the American continent, the Indians. Although Indians as the original occupants had the greatest right for freedom and their land in their own home, it was not used to be like that. In *The Declaration of Independence* was not said a word about the Indians, nor in dividing of lands by the British and other states. People did not care about the Indians and these aboriginal tribes of people were pushed away to other territories. The Indian tribes were not counted as inhabitants at all. In the creation of constitution, for example in already mentioned fourteenth amendment: “ ... according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, ...” (*The Constitution*) were Indians totally excluded from the society of human beings. Other possible reason why they were not counted is that in the time of The Revolutionary War the Indians fought, with few exceptions, on the French side. On the other hand it is quite logical that the Indians in comparison with the Afro-Americans were not included into *The Declaration of Independence* and to *The Constitution of United States*, because they did not participate, again with few exceptions, in a daily life in colonies, but they lived their own life outside the colonies on their own expense.

In *The Declaration of Independence* leaders of the Revolutionary War promised that: “all men are created equal” (Jefferson), but in *The Constitution* they acted as Britain herself. They wanted freedom for the American people, but they did not fight it out for everyone. White men became Britain for their slaves and wives now. In *The Declaration of Independence* they promised equality and that all people have the right for “Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness” (Jefferson), but from our today’s view, from the view of 21<sup>st</sup> century, results that all people had to be freed. Nevertheless according to black people who were still considered as a minority and a low race and women who were still just mothers in childbed. Unfortunately *The Declaration* really referred only to a relationship between

white man of the British Empire and the United States of America. On the other hand there is possible another version, why *The Declaration of Independence* and *The Constitution of the United States* varied, which is very unlikely possible, because revolutionary leaders like George Washington or John Adams seemed like honest men. How I mentioned already, lust for power is irresistible, but the revolutionary leaders could be able to feel the power and they did not want to change everything. They were on a pedestal and people believed in them. Nobody can exactly say how this all happened, because people can go wrong as apples and we cannot see into the human minds.

Whether sooner or later, people on the American continent gained their independence. It was obvious that someone did not want to join the fight for the independence, until he or she was frightened that could be a castaway in the new state and he or she would be treated for example as with slave. Some people fought for it in their own perspiration and by a shed of their own blood, others patiently waited for their turn. Decisions which were made in the eighteen century were good for some people, but for the others were bad. We cannot unambiguously say, that all people were dissatisfied with their position in the society, because for someone was maybe even better to be a slave or an indenture worker and endure offenses than to be completely no one. For the future life on the American continent it meant that people were no longer living in an oppressed and inferior form of life and they could have no fear what whip of their lord could bring. Even in the meaning of independence really meant on individual roles of people. They say, that human kind is corrupted, but people still make progresses and decisions and try to improve their current situation as well as colonists tried before. On the other hand, people always complain about their life and what it brings, because men is never completely satisfied and always want more. It is certainly good that people in Americas gain their own liberty, but now it is only up to the individuals what they can do with it.

## CONCLUSION

The major purpose of this thesis was to describe the most considerable points in the fight for the American independence, from its beginning to its end. It described how colonists achieved to rise from the bottom of the society, to cross all the British obstacles and how they achieved to create their new community of people and their new independent state. For their freedom, whether political or personal, American people fought, from the very first shots and bloodshed to the last British soldier who left the American continent,

nearly thirteen years. In the last years of this struggle, Britain tried to do almost anything to stop the colonies, but unfortunately for Britain, human desire is huge and as far as indescribable. Although Britain did not behave nicely, colonists still tried to prevent from complete separation with her and in this meaning colonists hoped that Britain will cancel majority of taxes, but the King did not responded those appeals so colonists did not have other chance, they had to separate. When colonists were definitely decided about complete separation with Britain and Britain felt this lost, she tried to save herself by offering to the colonies that she will: “ ... reach a settlement that would give the 13 colonies increased power to govern themselves, although they would still remain under the umbrella of the British Empire” (Edward and Renehan 18 - 19), but Benjamin Franklin as one of the negotiators in the name of colonists: “ ... turned down offers from the British government to begin peace negotiations” (Edward and Renehan 18,19). It was too late, there was no way back for Britain.

At the beginning it looked that colonies could not win their independence over Britain, but they made it, whether on battle fields, mainly thanks to the General Washington and the others, or in a political sphere thanks to the main leaders of all revolution for example John Hancock, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, etc. Due to those leaders, who took temporary government in the fight against Britain, people reached a democratic form of state and their desired freedom. Separation with Britain was just a matter of time and if the Americans did not start their fight at that time, they would certainly start to struggle for their independence later.

Independence of the American continent brought to many lives new pieces of knowledge. The Americans can now make up one's mind about their future without restraint, decide about their future government on an account of their own decision. The Americans proved that nothing is impossible and the American fight for independence became an example for rest of the world. One of the examples was the Great French Revolution. This revolution was quite similar to the American War of Independence. The French fought against the French King also and they also come to the republican state system. Other example was India. India declared its independence in the 1947, but there was a slight difference. In India, in contrast with America, stayed as the head of the state the British ruler represented by Governor-General. The newest example or more precisely a comparison used Barack Obama when he compared the revolution in Arabian world to the former American fight for the independence and to the civil right movement.

According to him, The Arabs are motivated by the same lust for freedom as did with the Americans.

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## SUMMARY IN CZECH

Hlavním tématem této bakalářské práce je ukázat britskou kolonizaci v osmnáctém století a pozdější americký boj o nezávislost. Tato práce popisuje boj za americká práva, boj proti nespravedlnostem způsobeným ze strany Británie kolonistům a boj za americkou svobodu. Během této doby američtí obyvatelé a země samotná prošli úplnou přeměnou, ať už to byla přeměna politického systému, anebo osobní pocity lidí, tato přeměna vedla k utvoření nového státu a nové lidské společnosti.

Tato práce je rozdělena do dvou hlavních částí. První část ukazuje život v amerických koloniích a jejich vládu a důvody, které vedly k americké revoluci a k vyhlášení samostatných nezávislých států. Druhá část této práce dokazuje, jak se během této doby změnila vláda v koloniích a s tím i spojený život amerických obyvatel a také dokazuje jak důležité dokumenty jako deklarace nezávislosti a ústava spojených států prakticky přes noc, změnila budoucnost milionům amerických lidí.